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Letter dated 22 November 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In his statement in the general debate at the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 25 September 1999, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granic, blamed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the delay in the quest for the solution of the complex of issues related to the succession of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, emphasizing that the normalization of relations among the successor States of the former Yugoslavia depends on successful negotiations of this key legal issue.

In order to inform the States Members of the United Nations fully and objectively of the reasons behind the delay in the negotiations, I would like to apprise you of the following:

- Academician Kosta Mihajlović, Head of the Yugoslav Expert Group on Succession, addressed a letter to Special Negotiator Sir Arthur Watts on 11 November 1999, requesting an explanation of the state of negotiations on the succession of the former Yugoslavia so as to remove the blame from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the suspension of the negotiations;
- Bearing in mind that the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Working Group on Succession Issues had accepted, in principle, Sir Arthur Watts' last pragmatic draft agreement on succession and that four other newly created States in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia) had not rejected it as unacceptable and had requested instead only additional explanations, academician Mihajlović expressed surprise in his letter that there was no initiative for the continuation of the negotiations;
- Considering that, in the meantime, the governors of the central banks of the four newly created States in the territory of the former Yugoslavia have insisted, unauthorized, that the assets (gold and shares) of the former Yugoslavia that are with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) be divided, contrary to the position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the assets are in fact State property and should be discussed only at the level of State delegations and not central bank governors,

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academician Mihajlović insisted in his letter that the Peace Implementation Council provide its opinion on the causes of delay in the negotiations, pointing out that the causes accounted for the emergence of unauthorized initiatives. The Yugoslav side proposed that Sir Arthur Watts host, in his capacity as Special Negotiator, the next meeting of the Working Group on Succession Issues at the time convenient for all participants if he considered that the last draft agreement necessitated a more specific declaration of other participants.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter published as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 9.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.